

**Table 1. Prevalence of visual impairment, no eye-care insurance, and no recent eye exam by selected demographic characteristics: 2006 NC BRFSS Survey**

Demographics	Visually impaired % (95% C.I.)	No eye-care insurance % (95% C.I.)	No recent eye exam <sup>+</sup> % (95% C.I.)	Reason for no recent eye exam	
				No problem/ No reason to go % (95% C.I.)	Cost/Insurance % (95% C.I.)
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	30.0 (28.2-31.8)	41.4 (39.5-43.3)	40.4 (38.5-42.3)	58.2 (55.1-61.2)	19.4 (16.9-21.8)
Female	33.0 (31.7-34.4)	42.3 (40.9-43.8)	32.7 (31.3-34.0)	45.6 (43.0-48.1)	30.0 (27.7-32.3)
<b>Age</b>					
40-49 yrs.	32.4 (30.2-34.5)	36.8 (34.6-39.1)	43.5 (41.3-45.8)	52.8 (49.3-56.3)	25.1 (22.2-28.0)
50-59 yrs.	32.8 (30.7-35.0)	39.9 (37.7-42.1)	41.6 (39.4-43.8)	47.0 (43.6-50.5)	29.0 (25.9-32.1)
60-69 yrs.	28.9 (26.8-31.1)	48.0 (45.6-50.4)	32.3 (30.1-34.5)	54.3 (50.1-58.5)	21.0 (17.6-24.5)
70-79 yrs.	29.6 (27.1-32.1)	49.6 (46.8-52.3)	21.3 (19.0-23.6)	60.3 (54.3-66.2)	15.9 (11.1-20.6)
80+ yrs.	34.9 (31.1-38.7)	44.0 (40.0-48.1)	16.6 (13.6-19.5)	65.2 (56.1-74.3)	6.9 (1.7-12.0)
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>					
White	30.5 (29.3-31.7)	42.7 (41.4-44.0)	36.1 (34.9-37.4)	53.5 (51.3-55.7)	23.3 (21.4-25.1)
African American	37.4 (34.4-40.4)	34.5 (31.7-37.3)	32.3 (29.5-35.1)	45.0 (39.8-50.2)	27.9 (23.3-32.6)
American Indian	39.3 (30.3-48.4)	45.7 (36.3-55.2)	45.9 (36.6-55.1)	43.7 (30.4-57.1)	32.7 (20.4-45.0)
Other minorities	26.4 (20.2-32.7)	55.0 (47.8-62.2)	50.6 (43.3-57.8)	51.7 (40.8-62.7)	30.6 (20.8-40.4)
Hispanic	24.5 (18.5-30.6)	58.6 (51.4-65.7)	51.5 (44.1-58.8)	49.9 (39.2-60.7)	28.0 (18.8-37.2)
<b>Education</b>					
Less Than H.S.	39.0 (36.0-42.0)	53.4 (50.3-56.5)	41.7 (38.6-44.8)	41.9 (37.0-46.8)	35.1 (30.6-39.6)
H.S.	33.0 (31.0-35.0)	44.5 (42.3-46.6)	38.3 (36.1-40.4)	49.2 (45.6-52.8)	26.3 (23.2-29.4)
Some Post-H.S.	32.1 (29.8-34.4)	39.4 (37.1-41.7)	35.4 (33.1-37.8)	50.7 (46.7-54.8)	25.7 (22.2-29.3)
College Grad	26.5 (24.6-28.4)	36.1 (34.1-38.1)	32.5 (30.5-34.5)	62.3 (58.7-66.0)	15.4 (12.6-18.2)
<b>Employment Status</b>					
Employed for wages	30.0 (28.3-31.7)	33.0 (31.3-34.8)	40.5 (38.6-42.3)	54.5 (51.6-57.5)	20.7 (18.4-23.1)
Self-employed	26.5 (22.7-30.4)	55.0 (50.6-59.4)	45.0 (40.7-49.4)	61.2 (54.6-67.8)	15.9 (11.3-20.5)
Other	34.1 (30.5-37.8)	53.7 (49.9-57.6)	40.8 (37.0-44.6)	35.8 (30.2-41.4)	45.7 (39.9-51.5)
Retired	29.0 (27.3-30.7)	47.6 (45.7-49.5)	23.4 (21.7-25.0)	61.5 (57.5-65.4)	14.8 (11.7-17.8)
Unable to work	52.9 (49.1-56.7)	47.7 (43.8-51.6)	42.8 (39.0-46.6)	26.7 (21.7-31.8)	51.7 (45.8-57.6)
<b>Household Income</b>					
<\$15,000	46.6 (43.2-50.1)	56.7 (53.4-60.1)	43.0 (39.5-46.4)	30.1 (25.1-35.0)	49.9 (44.3-55.5)
\$15,000-24,999	39.2 (36.2-42.1)	55.5 (52.4-58.6)	41.1 (38.0-44.1)	43.4 (38.4-48.4)	35.5 (30.8-40.1)
\$25,000-34,999	33.9 (30.7-37.2)	44.9 (41.5-48.3)	38.1 (34.7-41.4)	47.7 (42.0-53.5)	32.1 (26.7-37.5)
\$35,000-49,999	29.3 (26.4-32.2)	39.1 (36.1-42.2)	35.2 (32.2-38.3)	56.5 (51.1-61.8)	20.3 (16.0-24.7)
\$50,000+	25.8 (23.9-27.6)	31.0 (29.1-32.9)	34.9 (32.9-36.9)	62.8 (59.5-66.1)	11.4 (9.0-13.7)
<b>Total</b>	31.6 (30.5-32.7)	41.9 (40.8-43.1)	36.3 (35.1-37.4)	52.1 (50.1-54.1)	24.5 (22.8-26.2)

<sup>+</sup> Had eye exam more than 12 months ago or never.

Notes: C.I. = Confidence Interval. Hispanics are included both in the Hispanic ethnicity row and in the racial category which they report.

small number of American Indian survey respondents. Those with less than a high school education had a significantly higher rate of visual impairment than those with higher levels of education, and low income groups had a significantly higher rate of visual impairment than high income groups. With respect to employment status, more than half of persons (52.9%) who reported being unable to work had visual impairment—the highest percentage of any demographic group.

Not having eye-care insurance varied most by household income: 56.7 percent of those with

annual household incomes of less than \$15,000 dollars had no eye-care insurance, compared to 31.0 percent of those with incomes in the highest group. Thirty-three percent of those employed for wages did not have eye-care insurance, compared to 55 percent of those who were self-employed. Those retired or unable to work also had high rates of no eye-care insurance. By age, the highest rate of no insurance was found among 70 to 79 year olds—almost 50 percent. By race and ethnicity, Hispanics had the highest rate of no eye-care insurance (58.6%), and African Americans had the lowest (34.5%).